

Brooklyn City Council
April 8, 2019 @ 6:40 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Mary Albier, Kevin Tanski, Barb Paulitzky, Ron Van Kirk, Meg Ryan Shockey, Andy Celcherts, Kathy Pucci. ABSENT: None

President Van Kirk said Council Rules say Council starts at 7 p.m., so **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Celcherts to suspend the rules to start the meeting now (6:40 p.m.) so Council can go into Executive Session. **VOTE: To suspend the rules of Council for mtg. start time:** Yes: Albier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts. No: Pucci (explained, no reason to change the time of well established and known, and could have been by special mtg. or executive session later). **(APPROVED)**

MOTION by Van Kirk, second by Ryan Shockey to adjourn to executive session to discuss the possible purchase of public property, with the Council, Mayor, Finance Dir., and Law Dir. **VOTE: To adjourn to executive session:** Yes: Albier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. No: None. **(ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

Council reconvened to regular session at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening prayer was offered by Council President Ron Van Kirk.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Tanski, second by Celcherts to approve the minutes of March 25, 2019. **VOTE: To approve:** Yes: Albier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Albier. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

Council President Van Kirk explained that Council started around 6:45, and voted to suspend the rules to begin early, and immediately entered Executive Session to discuss the sale of public property.

PUBLIC SESSION:

John Wagner, resident, representing the Census Dept, is reminding everyone that it's that time again for the Census and is asking everyone's support in their recruitment efforts. He will be bugging everyone for the next 15 months to remind our patrons and residents that it's extremely important to do follow up on this. Thanked those who have helped with some efforts already.

Pam Verchio of 4734 Elizabeth Ln. on behalf of Issue 1 and levy co-chair, informed it is a 10-year emergency operating levy that will generate \$2.25M per year. Spoke of the losses (\$14M over 12 years due to loss of tangible personal property tax); underfunding by the State of Ohio's funding formula (should be \$2.9M but they only receive \$1.2M which is \$900 per pupil). If it doesn't pass it will mean a cut of over \$500,000 from next year's budget (from the Superintendent: administrative, teaching, classified and support staff, extracurricular athletic supplemental contracts, music, band, sports). The new school funding money is a big question, but it's only a proposal at this time, and might be finalized with the State budget after the levy. For questions and concerns, there is a Finance Forum on April 10th at 6:30 in the Fire Station community room with the School Treasurer and Dr. Gleichauf. If you can't make it, contact them. Vote for Issue 1 on May 7. She's also in charge of signs; contact her for a levy sign.

Victor Ardito of 7439 Outlook Ave., supports the school system. Keep in mind when they built the new section of the school, the money was all for the new and nothing to do with the old section. They need money to keep both sections going.

Don Stopa of 4190 Ivywood Dr., he and his wife are 48-year residents/homeowners and supported various school fund issues during that time, but it's getting more difficult to do so. They recently passed a combined

large bond and operating levy, and last year asked for a renewal to the permanent improvement levy (by citing the need to re-roof the school). If hundreds of thousands of dollars weren't spent on the seldom used football stadium they would have had the money for it. Now being asked to support a 6.9 mill operating levy to compensate for lost money from the state. A PD article said Brooklyn Schools are projected to receive a funding increase of approximately \$600 more per pupil for 2019-2020 school year, with additional increase of another \$600/pupil for 2020-2021 school year. How will the School Bd. account for this extra funding they'll be getting? Maybe they'll put a dome on the football stadium; it seems they're accountable to anyone.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:

Finance Committee (Councilman Van Kirk): The Committee met at 6:15 and recommended the following approvals: Ord. 2019-13, Providing for issuance and sale of not to exceed \$1.42M of notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to pay for reconstruction of Rodoan Rd. and Rodoan Alley (to pay down 20%, which is \$284,000 and roll the rest over into a bond anticipation note for another year); Ord. 2019-14, Providing for issuance and sale of not to exceed \$2.1M in notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the American Rd. reconstruction project taking place this summer (paid for by TIF financing); Ord. 2019-17 (1st Reading), dealing with mobile telephones while operating a vehicle (adding texting and language clarification); Ord. 2019-16, Amending Sect. 351.20, Waivers for parking ticket amounts (2nd reading); Ord. 2019-18, in regard to the Civil Service Comm. and part-time positions at the Rec Center have civil service protection (if adopted, this would ratify that part-time Rec Center employees would no longer receive that protection- and remove the burden from the administration).

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): Youth Baseball/Softball registration is through May 6th at the Rec Center, in person or online at www.activityreg.com (also for fees and requirements). Learn to Swim registration begins May 1st with two summer sessions. There will be a swim team for ages six and up. Summer Camp runs for six weeks starting June 10. The spring Egg Hunt is April 13th at 11 a.m. (registration at 10:30 at Senior Center). Ice show on April 25th and 26th at 7 p.m. Call 216-351-5334 or register online. The next Rec Board mtg. is April 15th at 7 p.m. in the Rec Center mtg. room.

Domestic Abuse Commission (Councilwoman Ryan Shockey): The Commission met March 26th and had guest speaker Judge Ashley Kilbane speak about why their work is so important, examples of child abuse and domestic abuse in her line of work, and listened to what the Commission has accomplished and plans to do in the next year. They thank Judge Kilbane for her time in speaking with them.

Public Safety & Environmental Committee (Councilman Van Kirk): The Committee will meet immediately following the Council mtg. to discuss a report that was issued by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health with regard to health trends in Brooklyn. Terry Allen from the Board of Health will guest at the mtg. This is why the executive session was at the beginning of the Council mtg., so he would not have to wait longer.

Legislative Update (Councilwoman Balbier): The Ohio Transportation Bill was sign last week by Gov. DeWine. Gov. DeWine requested an increase of 18 cents/gallon; this Bill authorizes a 10.5 cent increase (gas tax will go from 28 cents/gallon to 38.5 cents/gallon). It's viewed as a short term fix because it doesn't provide for the funds needed for Ohio's transportation needs, and will probably lead to another increase in the future. Another aspect of the Bill is that front license plates will no longer be required after 7/1/20 (unless a person requests one).

Board of Zoning Appeals (Commissioner Kulcsar): The Board will meeting April 18th at 6 pm. to hear requests from: Adams Signs for 108 s1. Ft. variance to max area for new freestanding sign on existing foundation at 6910 Biddulph, for a four foot height variance to the sign, and for a 14 foot variance for distance required for the right of way.

Planning Commission (Councilman Van Kirk): The Commission met April 4th at 6 p.m. and approved requests from: Eco-Site for new cell tower at 8720 Brookpark Rd.; from Boxes Builders for preliminary site plan approval for self-storage facility at 11400 Brookpark Rd.; from Adams Signs for free-standing sign for the Plaza on existing foundation at 6910 Biddulph; from Robert Corna from Prime Properties for a preliminary site plan approval for a gas station at 3580 Ridge. The next mtg. is May 2nd at 6:30 p.m., all are welcome to attend.

School Board Liaison (Councilwoman Ryan Shockey): The Board will meet May 16th at 6 p.m. at the school media center. They will hold their final information session on the levy on April 10th at 6:30 in the Fire Station community room.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Mary Balbier: With spring in full swing, hopes everyone's doing spring cleaning. The shredder is coming on April 20th from 10-1 at the Rec Center; show proof of residency. In conjunction the Service Garage is accepting old paints, concrete, etc. that people want to get rid of, to drop off at the Garage, proof of residency also required. –Thanked Pam for her passion, and all the parents who have come and talked about the levy. After all her 31 years here, she's worried about this levy; but she hopes it passes. She feels keeping students busy in sports, and drama, and other activities makes for better students, and a well rounded education. She gave her address for a levy sign for her yard. –Spotlighted one of Brooklyn's own, Bill Marzola. There was a very good article in yesterday's Plain Dealer Metro section about him. He's a veteran of the Korean War and World War II, and aged 95. She highlighted items in the article, and thanked him for his years of service, and welcomed him home. –With Easter around the corner and Lent almost over, there are many churches having fish fries and would love the support. Churches have sunrise and other services; take advantage of what they offer. –Wished all residents a happy Easter.

Kevin Tanski: Taste of Brooklyn was Saturday, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, with community food vendors and the High School Jazz Band. Thanked all for participation, the residents, family and friends who came to the event. –Wished everyone a happy Easter.

Barb Paulitzky: The Chamber of Commerce did a fantastic job of the Taste of Brooklyn at LaVilla, which was larger and overflowing with guests. Local restaurants, volunteers, Mr. Sullivan and the Jazz Band. Thank you to all who attended. –April 17th at 6 p.m. Heritage Home will hold an information session at the Senior Center (administered by Cleveland Restoration Society, with free technical assistance and low interest financing for projects, for homes 50 years or older). –Laurel Garden Club tomorrow at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station community room has world renowned designer of Japanese gardens, David Slawson, for free. One of his gardens can be viewed at the Botanical Gardens. –The Rec Center holds a one week free admission to every program they have through April 13th.

Meg Ryan Shockey: Important dates for May 8th Primary Election: tomorrow is last date to update voter registration; April 10th starts absentee and vote by mail; last day to apply for absentee is May 5th. This election is important for Brooklyn as Issue 1 will be on the ballot. –The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District reminds to resist cleaning gardens until temperatures constant above 50 degrees; butterflies, bees, other pollinators overwinter in dead leaves. Resist cleaning up plants for a few more weeks. –She's asking her fellow Councilmembers to support and vote yes on Ord. 2019-7. Ohio is one of 13 states that doesn't have this type legislation on a state level, so it's important for our residents to do what the state has failed to. 2017 statistics show Brooklyn had 42 calls related to domestic abuse. Domestic abuse unfortunately happens in our city, and this legislation could help someone leave their abusive spouse.

Andy Celcherts: Thanks to all that attended Taste of Brooklyn, it was a great success. The proceeds go to scholarships to students. –ODOT sent an email about Work Zone Awareness Week, which also applies to our crews working on streets. Slow down, move over if possible, avoid distractions going by... –April 17th from 5-9 p.m. the High School Post Prom has a fundraiser at BW3 on Tiedeman, there's a flyer needed to get 20% of your bill donated. –Please vote for Issue 1 if you can. He understands for some it might not be a financial option, but please do so if you can. If you have questions talk to Dr. Gleichauf or the school Treasurer and don't just rely on the expertise of social media, it's not always the best answer. –April 23rd from 4-7 p.m. will be another giveaway of fresh produce. Those that meet the criteria and are in need, please stop by. –Wished everyone a happy Easter.

Kathy Pucci: Thanked all who spoke at public session. –Reported there was a Safe Routes to School mtg. last week with a teleconference with ODOT rep. to discuss finalizing/invoicing process for previous non-infrastructure grant, and process for new grant to finalize the scope. Inquired on next steps to infrastructure grant that the city will administer (ODOT will reach out to her and Councilman Celcherts with the

information). –It was a nice article in the paper about Bill Marzola highlighting his service in the two wars. She encourages people to read the first hand experience of some of our greatest generation. Mr. Marzola was our electrical inspector for many years. –The Issue 1 school levy, early voting starts tomorrow. Vote by mail applications are at City Hall, Senior Center, Library. Get the information you need to make an informed decision. She is supporting Issue 1, as a community can't be strong and vibrant without strong, vibrant schools. –There was an article about Brooklyn City Schools were selected a "Project Lead the Way Distinguished District" recognizing the system for their STEM program for 7th and 8th graders. There are many wonderful things going on in the schools for our students. Corrected a comment that Election Day is May 7th (not May 8th). –Wished every a happy and blessed Easter.

Ron Van Kirk: Pretty everything has been covered. –Thanked those who spoke. –Echoed it's important to return Census forms; it's good to be counted, and it's how Electoral votes are divided up (number of representatives we have in Ohio). –Issue 1 – make sure to be aptly informed; but don't look to social media as a reliable source of information. Several meetings have been held with the school, and another one coming, as mentioned. It looks like the topic will be taken up finally with the State, though it will occur after the levy. If things go through Brooklyn should be getting some much needed funds from the state, so that is good news on that end. –Wished everyone a happy Easter, and encouraged to attend a church of their faith and celebrate the Resurrection.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Katie Gallagher: April 11th the Chamber will host the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to discuss Master Plan with businesses here. They sent an electronic survey seeking their feedback with the Master Plan process. To participate in the luncheon it's at noon April 11th. –The Bd. of Health sent their annual report. We pay an annual fee for their service, and it's on the website (she already sent to Council). The Bd. of Health will be here after this meeting (in a Public Safety mtg) to discuss various topics that came from the Master Plan process and the annual report. –Taxes due April 15th. For any help with RITA taxes, our city still assists residents, come here at any time. If you have problems with doing it on RITA's website, stop up, and we'll help you get through it. –Taste of Brooklyn was a terrific event. Besides students playing in the jazz band, they were cleaning off tables, and helping in every facet. She received an email from the Board, they raised way more money than they did last year, which is terrific news, as all the money goes towards scholarships. –Saturday is the Easter Egg Hunt at the Senior Center. Registration is at 10:30, the hunt begins at 11. This is for Brooklyn residents ages six and under. It's one of Brooklyn's best events. –April 14-20 is Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Each Mayor from Parma Regional Dispatch sent proclamations to the regional dispatchers through Parma for this week. They are the first and most critical contact assistants of all emergency services; and are the critical link between police officers, firefighters and citizens in their service. Thanked all dispatchers for their service. It is definitely something she could not handle.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Finance Dir. Raguz: The 2018 Financial Audit is progressing well; we expect completion in three months, June, which is normal. –Two scheduled budget work sessions in the fall: Capital Budget is Oct. 7th, the General Fund on Nov. 18th. A spring work session is June 3rd. Told Council to let him know they want something on the agenda,

Building Commissioner Kulcsar: There will be a couple information sessions on homeowner assistance programs: April 10th at 6:30 in the Council Chambers, and April 17th at the Senior Center. Dawn Neal from the Bldg. Dept. will talk about all the available programs for homeowners to get repairs or projects done to their home. Along with the newest grant that we have in collaboration with the County on exterior home repair and maintenance. Applications are now being accepted. Something as little as landscaping, having your flower beds turned over or your bushes trimmed can all be taken advantage of with that program. Please attend.

LEGISLATION:

Ord. #2019-7, Establishing Ch. 746 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Brooklyn to create housing protections for victims of domestic violence and affected landlords. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to adopt. **VOTE:** *To adopt:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

Ord. #2019-13, Providing for the issuance and sale of not to exceed amount of \$1,420,000 of notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, to pay costs of reconstructing Radoan Road and Radoan Alley, and declaring an emergency. **MOTION** by Celcherts, second by Van Kirk to adopt. **VOTE:** *To adopt:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

Ord. #2019-14, Providing for the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$2,100,000 of notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, to pay costs of extending American Road by constructing, grading, draining, paving, constructing curbs, gutters and driveway aprons, installing storm sewers and making other improvements as designed in the plans approved or to be approved by Council. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Tanski to adopt. **VOTE:** *To adopt:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

Ord. #2019-16, Amending Sect. 351.20 "Waivers" of the Codified Ords. of the City of Brooklyn. **MOTION** by Van Kirk, second by Tanski to suspend the rules. **VOTE:** *To suspend the rules:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. No: None. *To adopt:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

Ord. #2019-17, Amending Sect. 331.45 "Use of mobile telephones while operating a motor vehicle" of the Codified Ords. of the City of Brooklyn. **(1st READING)**

Ord. #2019-18, Amending Sect. 147.02 "Positions" of the Codified Ords. of the City of Brooklyn. **(1st READING)**

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Van Kirk to adjourn. **VOTE:** *To adjourn:* Yes: Balbier, Tanski, Paulitzky, Van Kirk, Ryan Shockey, Celcherts, Pucci. No: None. **(ADJOURNED)**

Mary-Jo Banish, Clerk of Council
Minutes approved: 4.22.19

Ron Van Kirk, Council President